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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/009,982	12/12/2001	Yutaka Nakashima	1391.1037	5777

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EXAMINER

LEE, SUSAN SHUK YIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2852

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/009,982

Applicant(s)

NAKASHIMA ET AL

Examiner

Susan S. Lee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1, 2, and 6-30, drawn to an intermediate transfer body equipped with a carrier-removing roller.

Group II, claim(s) 3, drawn to printing on a sheet requiring transparency such as OHP sheet, melt transfer is performed without prior removal of excessive oil and after melt transfer is performed, excessive oil is removed from the sheet.

Group III, claim(s) 4, drawn to a material whose resistance varies within a semiconductive range according to temperature is used as a surface material of the pressure roller, and temperature is controlled according to the printing medium to thereby apply an electric field at an optimum intensity.

Group IV, claim(s) 5, drawn to a pressure roller configured in such a manner as to contact the intermediate transfer body at a point where the intermediate transfer body leaves the heat roller, or in the vicinity of the point.

Group V, claim(s) 31-54, drawn to an intermediate transfer section comprising an intermediate transfer roller to which the toner image is transferred from the image bearer body according to an electric field established between the same and the image bearer body, and an intermediate transfer belt or intermediate transfer roller to which toner image is transferred from the intermediate transfer roller, the toner image transferred onto the intermediate transfer belt being melt-transferred onto the printing medium.

Group VI, claim(s) 55 and 56, drawn to a development section disposed at a lower portion of the apparatus to thereby prevent smudging of the printing medium and the intermediate transfer section even when a liquid toner spills.

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The inventions listed as Groups I, II, III, IV, V, and VI do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the special technique feature of Group I invention is the carrier-removing roller claimed therein; the special technique feature of Group II is printing on a transparency sheet so that melt transfer is performed without prior removal of excessive oil and after melt transfer is performed, excessive oil is removed from the sheet; the special technique feature of Group III is a material used as a surface material of the pressure roller having resistance that varies within a semiconductive range according to temperature; the special technique feature of Group IV is a pressure roller that contacts the intermediate transfer body at a point where the intermediate transfer body leaves the heat roller; the special technique feature of Group V is an intermediate transfer section comprising an intermediate transfer roller to which the toner image is transferred from the image bearer body according to an electric field established between the same and the image bearer body, and an intermediate transfer belt or intermediate transfer roller to which toner image is transferred from the intermediate transfer roller, the toner image transferred onto the intermediate transfer belt being melt-transferred onto the printing medium; and the special technique feature of Group VI is a development section disposed at a lower portion of the apparatus to thereby prevent smudging of the printing medium and the intermediate transfer section even when a liquid toner spills. Since none of the special technical features of the Group I, II, III, IV, V, and VI inventions is found in more than one of the inventions, unity of invention is lacking.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).


Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan S. Lee whose telephone number is 703-308-2138. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 10:30-8:00, Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Art Grimley can be reached on 703-308-1373. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3432 for regular communications and 703-305-3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.


Susan S. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

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May 18, 2003